THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The hon. Member has not specified the year in respect of which he wants the information. The figures for the year 1953 are as follows :—

(a) Forty-three.

(b) Two.

(c) Forty."

SRI K. T. RAJU :—" இவர்கள் அன்றைய தினம் வரி செலுத்த முடியாமல் கஷ்டப்படும் நிலைமையில் இருந்தார்கள் என்பதை மந்திரி அவர்கள் உணர்வாரா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" In such cases, there will be two sets of people; one set who cannot afford and do not pay and another set who can afford, but still do not pay."

Gazetted officers whose services have been lent to the Madras Corporation.

* 938 Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Gazetted officers whose services have been lent to the Madras City Corporation; and

(b) if so, on what conditions?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (a) One, Sir.

' (b) The officer has been appointed as Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, for a period of three years on a pay of Rs. 1,200 per mensem with an annual increment of Rs. 50 plus dearness allowance at the usual rate. His pay and allowance as well as contribution towards his leave salary and pension will be met from the funds of the Corporation."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" When this officer has been loaned for a period of three years, if his service expired within three years, may I know what arrangements the Government will make in such a contingency? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" It has been already settled by the Government."

Increase of bus fare by half a pie per mile.

* 939 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have given permission to the bus owners of this State to increase the bus fare by half a pie per mile; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

19th May 1954]

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The maximum fares for stage carriages fixed under the Motor Vehicles Act have been enhanced in respect of all stage carriages, in view of the judgment of the High Court in writ petitions Nos. 42, 43, etc., of 1953."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of the fact that the former Chief Minister and former Transport Minister gave an assurance to this House that no surcharge will be levied on passengers, will the present Transport Minister be pleased to cancel this surcharge imposed on the bus-owners as well as the increase in bus fares? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, that assurance was incorporated in the provisions of the Act itself. Unfortunately, the High Court has held that, as far as that portion of the Act is concerned, it is invalid. That is no justification to give any remission to bus-owners as far as this tax is concerned."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" ஹைகோர்ட்டிலே சட்டத்தில் அந்தப் பகுதி செல்லுபடியாகவில்லை என்று மந்திரி அவாகள் சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் அந்தமாதிரி ஹைகோர்ட் தீர்ப்புகள் கொடுத்த பிறகுகூட இந்த சபையில் அந்தச் சட்டங்களை நாம் திருத்தியிருக்கிறோம். ஆனால் பொது ஜனங்களுக்கு நன்மை அளிக்கக்கூடிய இந்தச் சட்டத்தை மட்டும் திருத்துவதற்கு ஏன் இன்னும் சர்க்கார் முன்வரவில்லை என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The matter is being examined." 8-10 a.m.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, the surcharge per seat in the bus will come to about Rs. 12 and according to the new increase in the bus fare, it will come to about Rs. 33. May I request the Hon. Minister to state whether it is the intention of this Government to help the bus-owners while at the same time putting passengers to trouble? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the arithmetic of the hon. Member is evidently wrong."

Decision of the High Court regarding Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952.

* 940 Q.—SRI K. T. SREEDHARAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Government with reference to the decision of the Madras High Court in writ petition No. 262 of 1953, bearing on the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" In view of the decision of the High Court, the Government have raised the maximum fares already prescribed by them under section 43 (1) (ii) of the Motor Vehicles Act by ½ pie per mile so as to cover the tax under the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952."